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Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

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Microsoft Press

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Data Carrier Detected \dā´tə kâr`ē-er də-tek´təd, dat´ə\ *n.* *See* DCD.

data chaining \dā´tə chā`nēng, dat´ə\ *n.* The process of storing segments of data in noncontiguous locations while retaining the ability to reconnect them in the proper sequence.

data channel \dā´tə chan`əl, dat´ə\ *n.* *See* channel.

data collection \dā´tə kə-lek`shən, dat´ə\ *n.* **1.** The process of acquiring source documents or data. **2.** The grouping of data by means of classification, sorting, ordering, and other organizing methods.

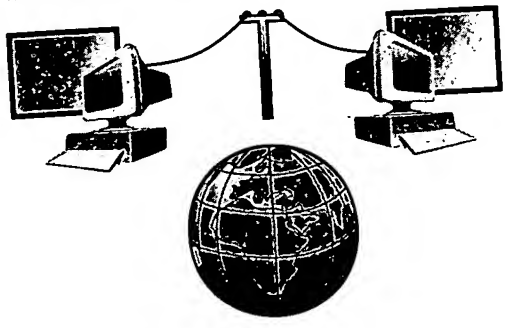
datacom \dā´tə-kom`, dat´ə-kom`\ *n.* Short for **data com**munications. *See* communications.

data communications \dā´tə kə-myōō-nə-kā´shənz, dat´ə\ *n.* *See* communications.

data compaction \dā´tə kəm-pak`shən, dat´ə\ *n.* *See* data compression.

data compression \dā´tə kəm-presh`ən, dat´ə\ *n.* A means of reducing the amount of space or bandwidth needed to store or transmit a block of data, used in data communications, facsimile transmission, and CD-ROM publishing. *Also called* data compaction.

data conferencing \dā´tə kon`frən-sēng, dat´ə\ *n.* Simultaneous data communication among geographically separated participants in a meeting. Data conferencing involves whiteboards and other software that enable a single set of files at one location to be accessed and modified by all participants. See the illustration. *See also* desktop conferencing, whiteboard. *Compare* video conferencing.



Data conferencing.

data control \dā´tə kən-trōl`, dat´ə\ *n.* The aspect of data management concerned with tracking how and by whom data is used, accessed, altered, owned, and reported on.

data corruption \dā´tə kər-up`shən, dat´ə\ *n.* *See* corruption.

data declaration \dā´tə de-klər-ā`shən, dat´ə\ *n.* A statement in a program that specifies the characteristics of a variable. The requirements for data declarations vary among different programming languages but can include such values as variable name, data type, initial value, and size specification. *See also* array, data type, record[1], variable.

data definition language \dā´tə def-ə-nish`ən-lang-wəj, dat´ə\ *n.* A language that defines the attributes and properties of a database, especially record layouts, field definitions, key fields, file locations, and storage strategy. *Acronym:* DDL (D`D-L´).

data description language \dā´tə dəs-krip`shən-lang-wəj, dat´ə\ *n.* A language designed specifically for declaring data structures and files. *See* data definition language.

data dictionary \dā´tə dik`shə-nâr-ē, dat´ə\ *n.* A database containing data about all the databases in a database system. Data dictionaries store all the various schema and file specifications and their locations. They also contain information about which programs use which data and which programmers are interested in which reports.

data directory \dā´tə dər-ek`tər-ē, dat´ə\ *n.* A catalog, data dictionary.

data-driven processing \dā´tə-driv-ən prō-sēng, dat´ə-driv-ən\ *n.* A form of processing in which the processor or program must wait for data to arrive before it can advance to the next step in the sequence.

data element \dā´tə el`ə-ment, dat´ə\ *n.* A unit of data. *Also called* data item. *See* field.

data encryption \dā´tə en-krip`shən\ *n.* *See* encryption.

data encryption key \dā´tə en-krip`shən-dat´ə\ *n.* A sequence of data that is used to encrypt and decrypt other data. *Acronym:* DEK (D`E-K´). *See also* decryption, encryption (definition 3).

data encryption standard \dā´tə en-krip`shən stan`dərd, dat´ə\ *n.* *See* DES.

data entry \dā´tə en´trē, dat´ə\ *n.* The writing new data to computer memory

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...CPU where peripherals, such as printers, ...and external modems, are plugged in. See ...ation. *See also* COM (definition 1), input/ ...port, serial port.

...port

...posite display \kəm-poz´it di-splā`\ *n.* A dis- ...characteristic of television monitors and ...computer monitors, that is capable of ...cting an image from a composite signal (also ...d an *NTSC signal*). A composite display signal ...es on one wire not only the coded informa- ...on required to form an image on the screen but ...o the pulses needed to synchronize horizontal ...d vertical scanning as the electron beam sweeps ...back and forth across the screen. Composite dis- ...plays can be either monochrome or color. A com- ...posite color signal combines the three primary ...video colors (red, green, and blue) in a color burst ...component that determines the shade of color dis- ...played on the screen. Composite color monitors ...are less readable than either monochrome moni- ...tors or the RGB color monitors that use separate ...signals (and wires) for the red, green, and blue ...components of the image. *See also* color burst, color monitor, monochrome display, NTSC, RGB monitor.

composite key \kəm-poz´it kē`\ *n.* A key whose definition consists of two or more fields in a file, columns in a table, or attributes in a relation.

composite video display \kəm-poz`it vid´ē-ō di-splā`\ *n.* A display that receives all encoded video information (including color, horizontal synchronization, and vertical synchronization) in one signal. A composite video signal under NTSC (National Television System Committee) standards is generally required for television sets and videotape recorders. *See also* NTSC. *Compare* RGB monitor.

compound statement \kom`pound stāt´mənt\ *n.* A single instruction composed of two or more individual instructions.

compress[1] \kəm-pres´\ *n.* A proprietary UNIX utility for reducing the size of data files. Files compressed with this utility have the extension .Z added to their names.

compress[2] \kəm-pres´\ *vb.* To reduce the size of a set of data, such as a file or a communications message, so that it can be stored in less space or transmitted with less bandwidth. Data can be compressed by removing repeated patterns of bits and replacing them with some form of summary that takes up less space; restoring the repeated patterns decompresses the data. Lossless compression methods must be used for text, code, and numeric data files; lossy compression may be used for video and sound files. *See also* lossless compression, lossy compression.

compressed digital video \kəm-presd` dij`i-təl vid´ē-ō\ *n. See* CDV (definition 1).

compressed disk \kəm-presd` disk´\ *n.* A hard disk or floppy disk whose apparent capacity to hold data has been increased through the use of a compression utility, such as Stacker or Double Space. *See also* data compression.

compressed drive \kəm-presd` drīv´\ *n.* A hard disk whose apparent capacity has been increased through the use of a compression utility, such as Stacker or Double Space. *See also* compressed disk, data compression.

compressed file \kəm-presd` fīl´\ *n.* A file whose contents have been compressed by a special utility program so that it occupies less space on a disk or other storage device than in its uncompressed (normal) state. *See also* installation program, LHARC, PKUNZIP, PKZIP, utility program.

Compressed SLIP \kəm-presd` slip´, S-L-I-P´\ *n.* Short for **Compressed** Serial **L**ine **I**nternet **P**rotocol. A version of SLIP using compressed Internet address information, thereby making the protocol faster than SLIP. *Acronym:* CSLIP (C´slip, C`S-L-I-P´). *See also* SLIP.

compression \kəm-presh´ən`\ *n. See* data compression.

compressor \kəm-pres´ər`\ *n.* A device that limits some aspect of a transmitted signal, such as volume, in order to increase efficiency.

CompuServe \kom´pyōō-sərv`\ *n.* An online information service that provides information and communications capabilities, including Internet access. It is primarily known for its technical

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